

BASARA



Story and Art by **Yumi Tamura**

Vol.22



shōjo

BASARA™

Vol. 22

Story and Art by
Yumi Tamura

Basara

Vol. #22

Shôjo Edition

Story and Art by

Yumi Tamura

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PARENTAL ADVISORY

BASARA is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. Contains realistic violence.



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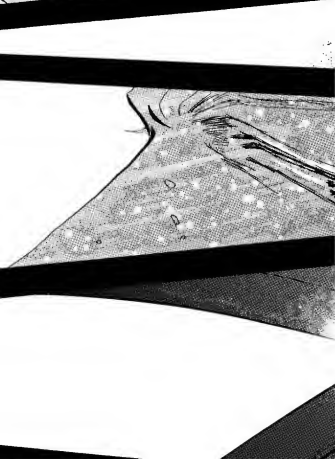


After a global apocalypse, Japan passed into the hands of tyrannical kings. At the birth of a rebel chieftain's twins, the blind prophet Nagi predicted, "This is a child of destiny, one who will grow to lead the people and be the light in the sky of our nation's future." But Tatara, the "Boy of Destiny," was killed by the Red King, one of the four sons of King Ukon XV. Tatara's twin sister, Sarasa, took up his name and his mission, vowing to lead Japan to freedom and peace.

During her travels, Sarasa fell in love with a young man named Shuri, not knowing that he was the Red King. On the battlefield, the two finally learned one another's identities. After intense grief and soul-searching, both returned to their positions—rebel and king—convinced that they were destined to be enemies.

Now the war for Japan is beginning. Sarasa's army, assembled from her allies across Japan, has gathered near Kyoto, the capital of King Ukon's empire. Shuri has seized power from his father and is leading the king's forces from Kyoto. The two armies are about to clash.

Meanwhile, the journalist Taro has been investigating Project Pomegranate, a plot orchestrated by the minister Hagiwara. Going undercover as a laborer, he has learned that Hagiwara plans to destroy both armies, burn Kyoto to the ground, and establish a new capital with himself as king. Taro has the facts...but can he publish them in time to prevent disaster?





Hagiwara

One of the four councilors of King Ukon, Hagiwara is a powerful and ambitious nobleman. He leads a group of nobles who are plotting to overthrow the royal family. They're secretly building a new capital of Japan, where Hagiwara plans to install himself as king.



Asagi

His pale skin and refined demeanor belie his ruthlessness and deadly skills. Asagi is the Blue King, son of King Ukon and brother of Shuri, but for most of his life he posed as a bodyguard to the false Blue King. He is allied with Sarasa, but he helps the rebels only out of personal curiosity and to further his own goals.



Hayato

Hayato first met Sarasa while both of them were posing as Tatara. He joined Sarasa's forces and now sometimes impersonates Tatara to draw attention away from the "real" Tatara. He is a descendent of the great Suzaku leader Rasho.



Nagi

Extremely wise, Nagi is the blind prophet who declared Sarasa the "Child of Destiny." Also a priest, doctor and teacher, Nagi educated the young Sarasa and continues to aid and advise her.



Chacha

A strong leader and fighter, she was once a pirate chief but is now one of Tatara's generals. Captain of the rebel flagship, she has mustered Tatara's forces in Sakurajima.

Sarasa

When Sarasa and her twin brother Tatara were born, a prophecy was made: "This is a child of destiny..." The people of Byakko Village assumed Tatara was the "Boy of Destiny," and Sarasa grew up in his shadow. When the Red King's forces killed Tatara, Sarasa took up her brother's name and fought in his guise, not realizing that she was the real Child of Destiny. Sarasa was horrified by the discovery that her lover, Shuri, was also her most hated enemy, the Red King.



The Red King

Once in charge of Midwestern Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu, he is the youngest of King Ukon's four sons. Only a privileged few call him by his name, Shuri. After being ousted from his throne, he rebuilt his power. He is now preparing to succeed his father as King of Japan. Destroying the rebel leader Tatara was one of his obsessions, and the discovery that Tatara was really Sarasa devastated him.



Ageha

Capable of staying the hand of a king and arranging for 1,000 head of cattle on short notice, this mysterious desert nomad seems to be extremely informed and influential. Ageha lost his left eye when the Red King blinded it as payment for rescuing the 12-year-old Sarasa. Now he is Sarasa's slightly mercenary ally. Ageha uses his owl companion, Kagero, to carry messages to his contacts.



Taro

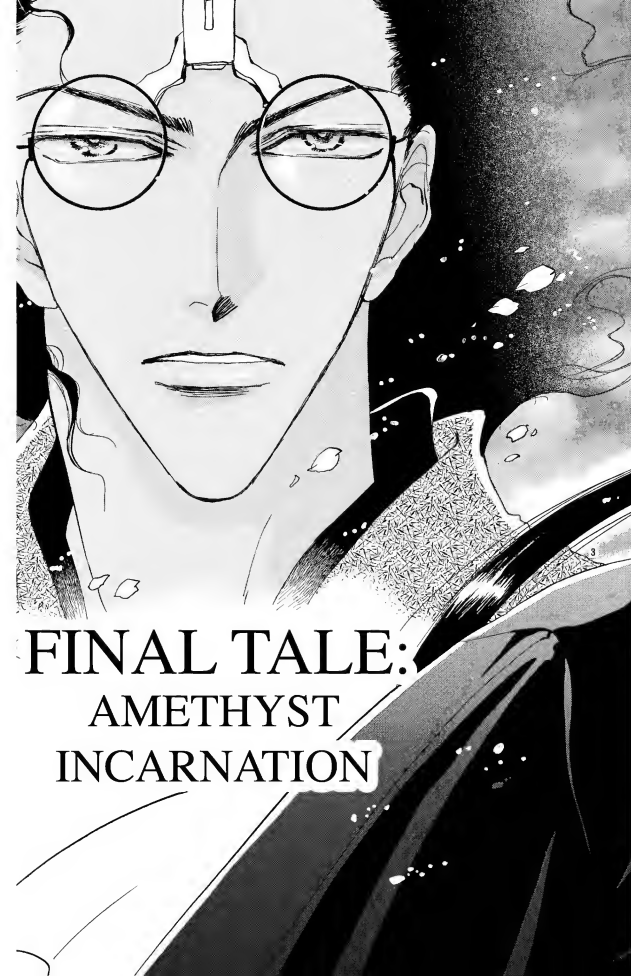
A scribe from Kyoto, he is one of Ageha's many contacts across Japan. He is writing a chronicle of the current war and believes that the age of tyrant kings is ending. Although he claims to be an impartial journalist and scholar, Sarasa has attracted his interest.

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TARO?



FINAL TALE:
AMETHYST
INCARNATION





Tiny Tam-Tam Time ①

Hello! Thanks for all your support! The story is getting pretty close to the finale. Please keep reading all the way to the end! ♡

DON'T CATCH A COLD!



The theme for this cover was... "Mr. Elephant." And yellow. Shuri's wearing a yellow cloak in this volume.

TAMU

SARASA'S JOURNEY





TARO
WILL
WARN
US.

...THE
ROYAL
FAMILY'S
PLOT!

HE'LL
LET US
KNOW...



YOU'RE
TARO, THE
NEWSPAPER
REPORTER...

...I
PRE-
SUME.





EVEN IF YOU TORTURE ME, I'M NOT TALKIN'.

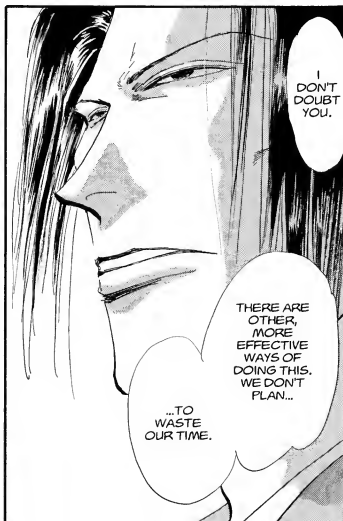
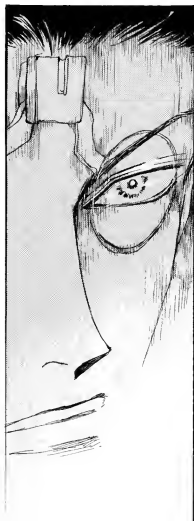


BY THE WAY...



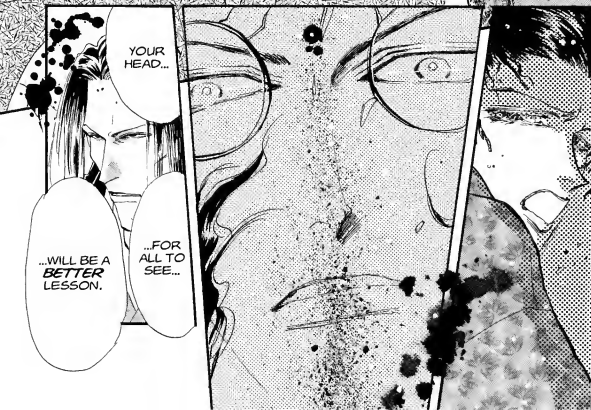
I WAS CAREFUL NEVER TO TELL HER ANYTHING.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO GRILL HER.



THERE ARE OTHER, MORE EFFECTIVE WAYS OF DOING THIS. WE DON'T PLAN...

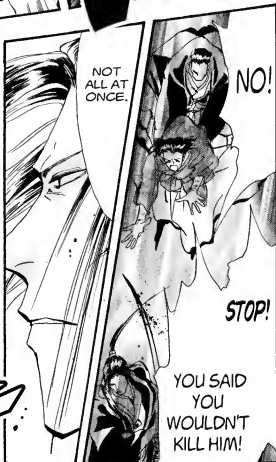
...TO WASTE OUR TIME.

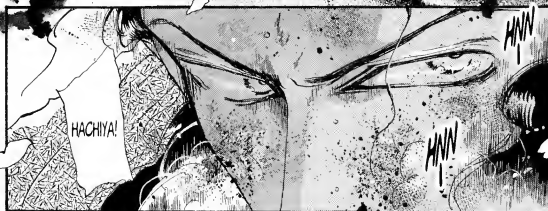


YOUR
HEAD...

...WILL BE A
BETTER
LESSON.

...FOR
ALL TO
SEE...







FEH.

KEEP YOUR
REBEL
IDEALS TO
YOURSELF.
DON'T
FORCE
THEM UPON
ME.



YACHI-
YO...

TARO!

OH, GOD!



I HAVE TO
WRITE THEIR
STORY.

IT'S MY
JOB.



AGEHA!



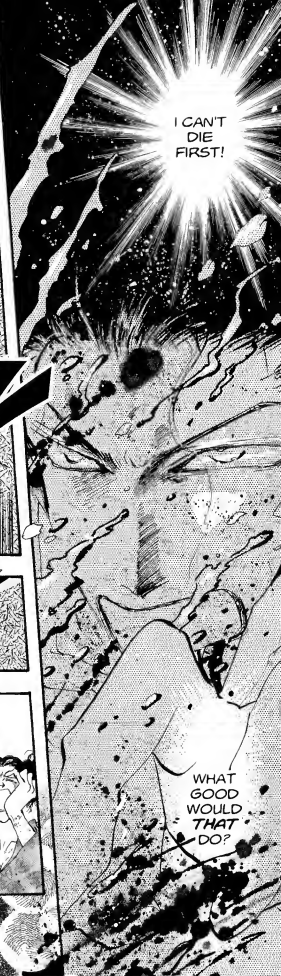
TATARA!



NOT
YET.



I
CAN'T
DIE.



I CAN'T
DIE
FIRST!

WHAT
GOOD
WOULD
THAT
DO?



...AND
FOCUS
YOUR
SOUL ON
IT.

LOOK AT
WHAT'S IN
FRONT OF
YOU...



A
FLY?

IS
THAT
ALL I
GET?



BZZZ



YOUR
SOUL IS
TRANS-
FERRED
TO IT...

...AND
YOU CAN
LIVE ON
AS PART
OF IT.

...AFTER
DEATH...



I
WANTED
TO (KNOW.

I
WANTED
TO SEE...

TO SEE
HISTORY IN
THE
MAKING...



THE END OF
THE
MONARCHY...

THE
LIGHT OF
A NEW
DAWN...



I HAVE
TO SEE
IT...



TO LEAVE IT
FOR
POSTERITY...

TO TELL
THE TALE...



IT'S
MY
JOB.

IT HAS
TO BE
DONE.

MY
CALLING.



THK THK THNK



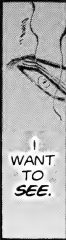
87



I
HAVE
TO...



I'LL
SEE IT
THROUGH.



I
WANT
TO
SEE.



I
CAN'T
DIE
YET.



buzz





WHAT
DID
YOU
SAY?



HELL
HATH
NO
FURY...

...LIKE A
WOMAN
WHO
ASSUMES
SHE'S BEEN
SCORNE.



LIFT!

YACHI-
YO.

WELL
DONE.



IT
SOUNDED
LIKE HE
WAS
IMPLOR-
ING US TO
SPARE
YOU.

...YOU HAD
NOTHING
TO DO
WITH THE
CRIME.

HE WAS
DESPER-
ATE TO
LET US
KNOW...

I
USED
YOU.

YES.

HIS
LAST
WORDS.



STILL...

YOU
MUST
PAY.

YOU
AIDED
AND
ABETTED
HIM.



TO
ME, AT
LEAST.

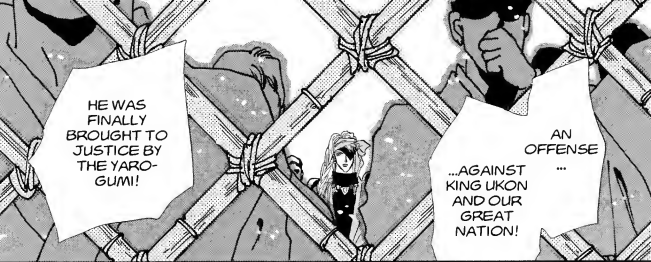






THEY LIVE IN THE OUTSKIRTS OF KYOTO.





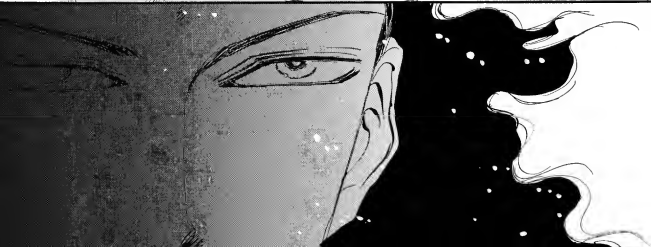
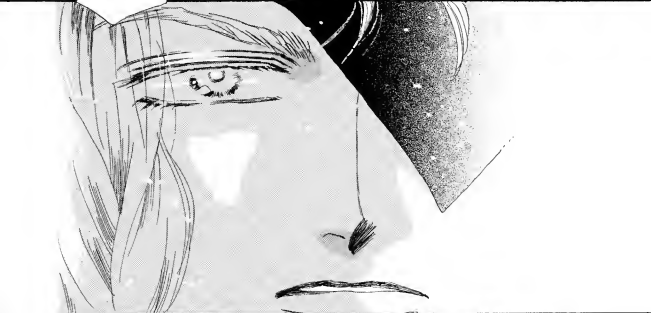
HE WAS
FINALLY
BROUGHT TO
JUSTICE BY
THE YARO-
GUMI!

AN
OFFENSE
...
...AGAINST
KING UKON
AND OUR
GREAT NATION!



...THIS
WOMAN WAS
AN
ACCESSORY
TO THE
CRIME...

FURTHER-
MORE...







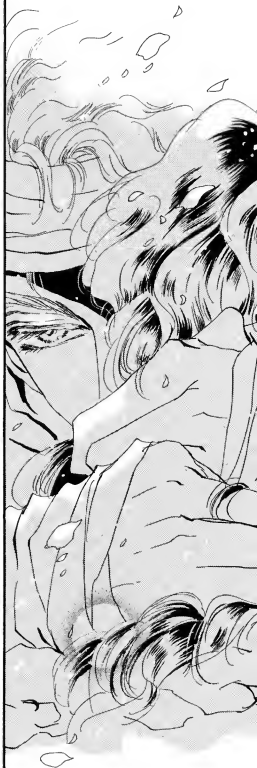
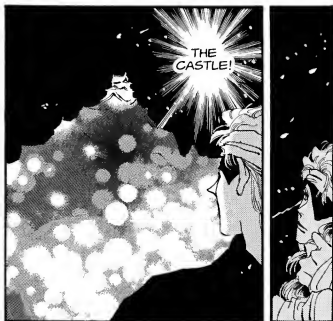


IT MUST BE AN
ACCOMPLICE!

STOP!



DAMN
YARO-
GUMI!





WANT...
A
SMOKE?



I
SEE.

THEN
I'LL
LEAVE
YOU
HERE.



IS THAT
WHAT
YOU'RE
LOOKING
AT?

YOU
WANT TO
KNOW
WHAT
HAPPENS,
EH?



PAPER...

A
NOTE?



GLP



GRP

FOR-
GIVE
ME!

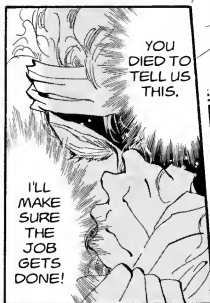


TARO?



YES.

YOU WERE
LUCKY THE
YARO-
GUMI
DIDN'T
FIND IT.



YOU
DIED TO
TELL US
THIS.

I'LL
MAKE
SURE
THE
JOB
GETS
DONE!



OIL IN THE
BUDDHAS

"OIL...
IN THE
BUDDHAS."

...PART
OF
THEIR
PLAN?

IS
THIS...



THIS WAS THE
ONLY ONE THAT
ESCAPED
DETECTION.

YOU MUST'VE
PLANTED
SOME RED
HERRINGS.

NO, THERE
WERE
PROBABLY
MORE.



WHAT'S
THE
WHOLE
STORY?

...WHAT
ELSE?

THEN...



...YOU
PROBABLY
LEFT MORE
NOTES LYING
AROUND!

KNOWING
YOU...





TO BEAR
WITNESS
TO
HISTORY IN
HIS PLACE.

HE
WOULD
WANT
YOU...



IT'S OUT
THERE
SOME-
WHERE.
WE HAVE
TO FIND
IT!

WE
HAVE
A JOB
TO
DO.

TARO
MUST'VE
LEFT US A
MESSAGE.



THE
HEAD?

I
LEFT
IT.

WHAT?

LET'S
GO.



AGE-
HA!

YES!
WE
LOST
'EM!

YOU
ALL
RIGHT
?



TATARA
IS
WAITING...

...FOR
WORD
FROM
TARO...

...IN THE
MIDDLE OF
HER BATTLE
WITH THE
RED KING!



RAH
KANG
KANG
RE



HOW AM I
SO SURE?



...WHERE
HE PLANS
TO GO.

I CAN
TELL...



WHAT
HE
WANTS
TO DO.



I CAN
TELL.



RAAH

I'VE
NOTICED
SINCE
YESTER-
DAY,
SINCE
THOSE
BALLOONS.

RAAH

YOU SEE
IT, TOO,
HIJIRI?

HOW
DOES
SHE
DO
THAT?
IT'S
KINDA
CREEPY.

DM DM DM



STRANGE.

THEY'RE
FIGHTING
TO THE
DEATH...

IN THIS LAST
BATTLE.

IT'S LIKE
THEY'RE
REAFFIRMING
THE BOND
THEY SHARE.

WHY?

BUT
WHY?



IF THERE *IS*
SUCH A THING
AS
TELEPATHY...

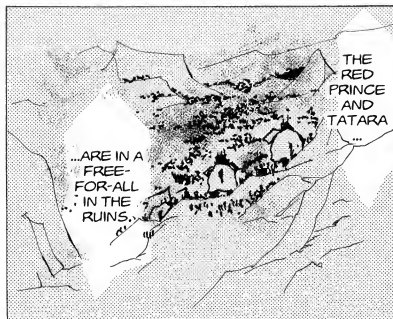


TATARA!
STOP
THIS!

RED
KING!



DM STOP. DMOM
...MAY-
BE...
...THOSE
TWO CAN...
...HEAR
EACH
OTHER...
DM DM



...ARE IN A
FREE-
FOR-ALL
IN THE
RUINS.

THE
RED
PRINCE
AND
TATARA
...



IT'S
ALMOST
TIME.

VERTICAL
TAM-TAM TIME ①

Shinbashi, meanwhile...



...is heading to Kyoto
with daddy.

TAMU.



WHY DO YOU THINK I
LURED YOU OUT HERE?



THAT
SOUND...
RUNNING
WATER...



WE'RE IN
THE
DESERT.

IT
CAN'T
BE.



WE'RE ON
A PILE OF
ANCIENT
BUILDINGS.

THERE
ARE MANY
HOLLOWS
UNDER-
NEATH.



THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT NOW.

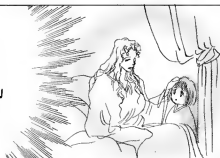


I WANT TO
FIGHT
ALONGSIDE
TATARA.

BUT I CAN'T
BETRAY THE
WHITE KING.



BUT YOU'RE
SO SMART,
KIKUNE.
YOU'LL BE AN
EXCEPTION.



GIRLS
AREN'T
NORMALLY
ALLOWED
TO JOIN.



YIKES.

LET'S
GET
OUT
OF
HERE.

THAT
SHOULD
BE
ENOUGH
OIL.



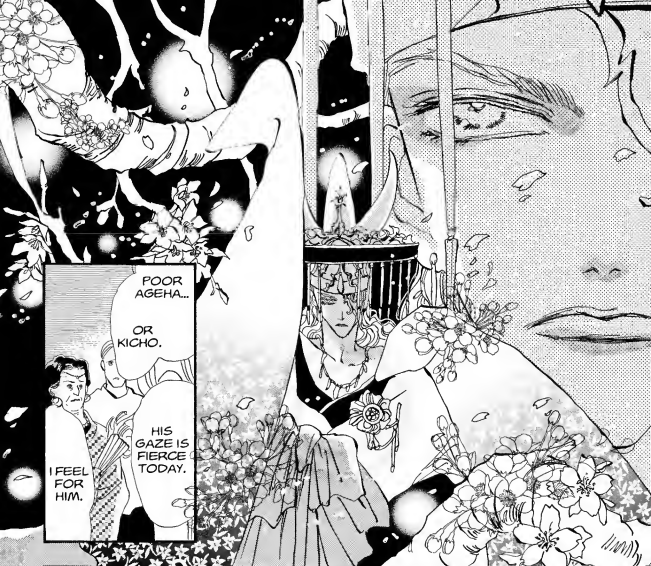
GIRLS
ARE
USELESS
AFTER
ALL.

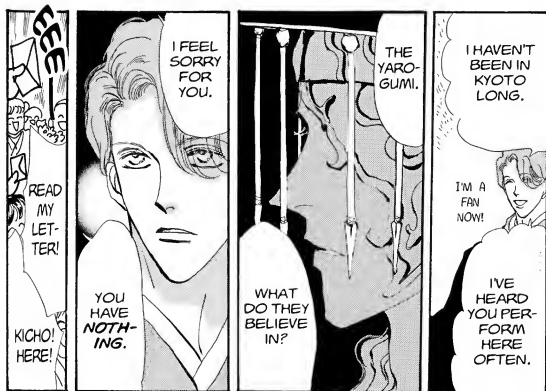
ARGH!



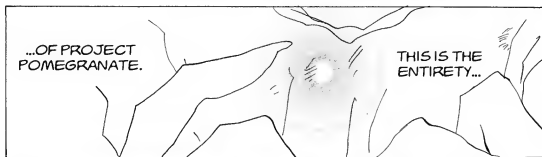
A
GIRL, A
VIRTUE?











TARO!

...I JUST
RAISE MY
LEFT HAND
A LITTLE.

TO
SIGNAL
IT...

...AND THE
BEGINNING OF
PROJECT
POMEGRANATE.

THE
PRELUDE
TO
DESTRUCTION...

BOOM

MY MORTAL
BODY

MAY NOW CRUMBLE
INTO DUST

ON KYOTO'S GREEN
FIELDS

BUT FOREVER SHALL REMAIN

MY SOUL'S UNBRIDLED PASSION



THE POEM
COM-
POSED
ON THE
DEATHBED
...

OF
SHINSAKU
TAKASUGI, A
HERO OF
THE MEIJI
RESTO-
RATION.

"TO
MAKE
INTER-
ESTING..."

AN
OTHER-
WISE
BORING
WORLD."

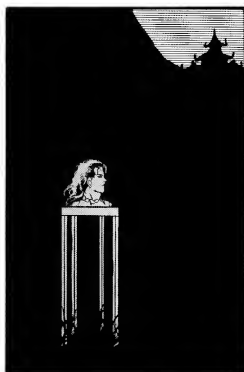


IS IT
INTERESTING
NOW, TARO?



FINAL TALE:
VIRIDIAN
THE LEGACIES







TINY TAM-TAM TIME ②

They made a CD recording of the BASARA radio drama. Have you heard yet?

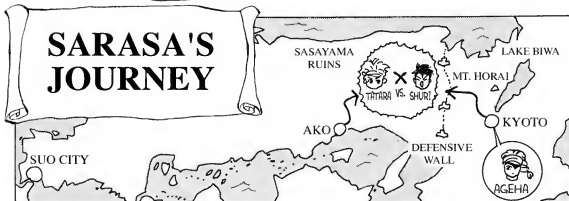


It's about the childhood of Tataru and Sarasa, and other stories. (There was another CD like that before, but this one's different.) There's a fun bonus segment, too. ♪ ☺

Please check it out! ♪

TAMU

SARASA'S JOURNEY



THOOM

THE
BIG
GUY...

HAS A
LOTTA
POWER!

WHAT'S HE
CALLED,
AGAIN?

TATARA
CALLED IT
"MR.
ELEPHANT."

SHE SAW ONE
IN OKINAWA

WHY'S IT A
"MISTER"?

THOOM

WATER

RAAH

RAAH

**DM
DM**

ONCE I
SEND THE
SIGNAL...

...THE
GROUND
WILL
ERUPT IN
FLAMES!

BOTH ARMIES
WILL SINK INTO
HELL!

BE
CARE-
FUL!

LET'S GO!

YEAH!

ALL
RIGHT!

HE'S
SO
COOL!

I NEVER
KNEW SUCH
HUGE
CREATURES
EXISTED ON
LAND.

ARE THEY RELATED
TO WHALES?

NOW
YOU'RE
CALLING
IT
"MISTER."

TATARA!

LEAVE MR.
ELEPHANT
TO US!

RIGHT
UP
YOUR
ALLEY!

THWOK

KING

TIK

TIK

PULL
IT
DOWN!

ARROWS
WON'T
WORK!

THAT
SHIELD!

DON'T
TRY TO
TAKE IT
HEAD-
ON!

WE
CAN'T
GET
CLOS-
ER!







...WHY
IS IT...



YEAH!
LET'S
GET
THAT
SHIELD!

BUT...



YES...

AS LONG
AS SHE
REMAINS
TATARA!

SHE MUST
STAY
STRONG.

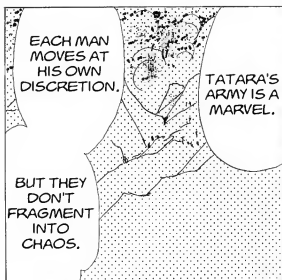
...THE MORE SHE
SEEMS ABOUT TO
FADE AWAY?

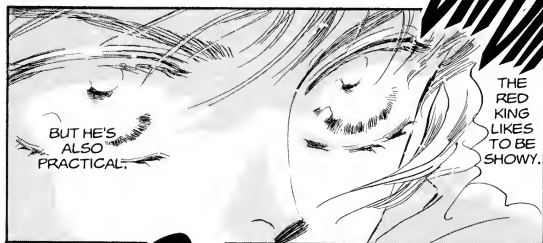
...THAT THE
STRONGER SHE
GROWS...

IS IT MY OLD
EYES PLAYING
TRICKS?



TATARA CRIES
INSIDE, IN THE
HEART.







TATARA'S
COMING.

TAKE THE
ELE-
PHANTS
FORWARD!

RAAH
RAAH

AND
ME?

CAN I
GO?

RAAH
RAAH

SIRE.

DO YOU WANT
ME TO JOIN
THE FRAY?

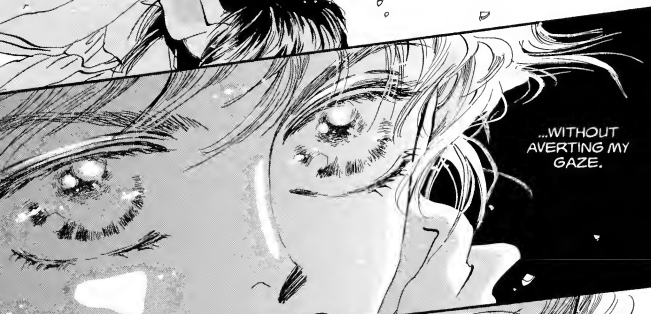
NAKIJIN,
DON'T
MOVE.

SENSEI,
STAY
WITH
ME.



THIS IS THE FIRST
TIME I'LL FACE...

...THE
RED
KING...



...WITHOUT
AVERTING MY
GAZE.



I HAVE TO
KNOW YOU!



WITH ALL FIVE SENSES...



YOUR
HEART
AND
SOUL!

...SHE'S
REACHING
OUT TO
SHURI.

HOW
CAN I
TELL?

HOW DO I
KNOW
THIS?



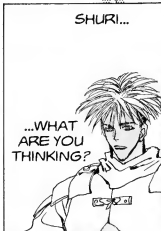
YOU
SAID
KINGS
AREN'T
NEED-
ED.

SO WHY
ARE YOU
FIGHTING?



THE DEMONS I
SAW INSIDE YOU
IN OKINAWA...

...ARE
GONE.



SHURI...

...WHAT
ARE YOU
THINKING?

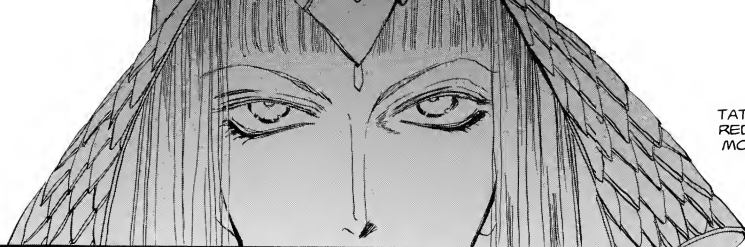


I WANT
TO KNOW
YOU!



...SHE'S
ATTUNED
TO HIM.

WITH EVERY
FIBER OF
HER BEING...



TATARA AND THE
RED PRINCE ARE
MOVING TO THE
CENTER.

THIS IS
AS
GOOD A
TIME AS
ANY.

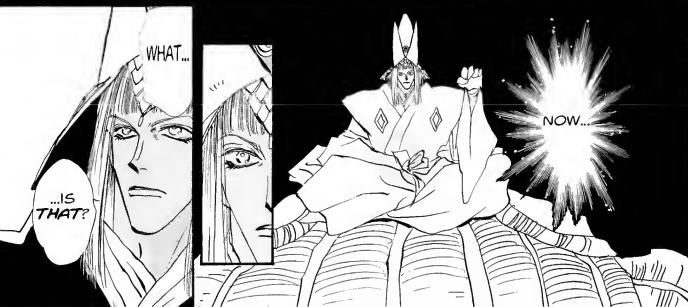


BUT THAT
MEANS
BETRAYING
THE WHITE
LADY!!

I HAVE
TO.

IS
THERE
A TRAP
UNDER
HERE?

I HAVE
TO
TELL
TATARA.



WHAT...

...IS
THAT?

NOW...



B-DMP

AND
KAGERO!
THE
WHOLE
FAMILY!

SHIN-
BASHI!!

IT'S
HERE!

THE NEWS
FROM
TARO!

IT'S A
NEWS-
PAPER!

PAPER
FROM
THE SKY!

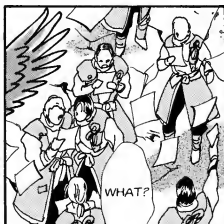
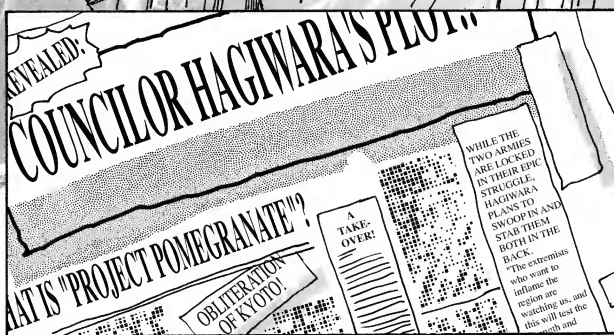
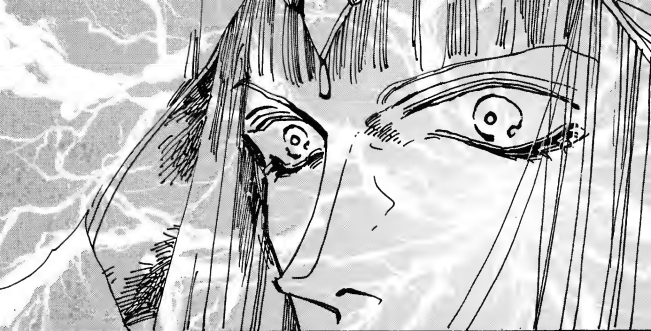
WHAT'S
THAT?

A
FLIER
?

WHAT?

HUH?







ONCE THE
NUMBERS
ON BOTH
SIDES ARE
REDUCED ...

IN HIS
OWN
WORDS,
"KABOOM!"



"BUT HE
HAS
LAID A
TRAP ..."

WHO'S
HOGWARTS?



"HE LET
THE
ROYAL
ARMY ...

"...FIGHT
EACH
OTHER."

AND
TATARA'S
ARMY ...



...TO KILL
THE RED
PRINCE.



WHAT'S
THIS?

...HE WILL
STRIKE
FROM
BEHIND ...



THE
COUNCILOR
PLANS TO
SUPPLANT
KING UKON ...

...AND IS
EVEN
BUILDING
A NEW
CASTLE AT
MT. HORAI.

CRACK



...WHERE
HE WILL
ANNIHILATE
THEM, CITY
AND ALL.

HE WILL
THEN
FEIGN
SUR-
RENDER ...

AND LURE
TATARA'S
ARMY TO
KYOTO ...



**REPORTER
MURDERED**
YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE AS A JOURNALIST
KILLED BY THE YARO-GUM
SEVERED HEAD WAS PUT ON
DISPLAY



IT
DOESN'T
SAY WHAT
KIND OF
TRAP.

TARO, I
NEED
MORE...

BADMP

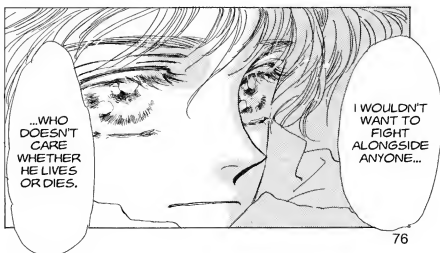
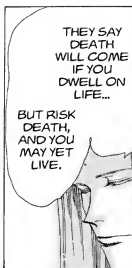
TARO?

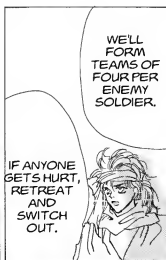


FIGURE
IT
OUT!













I CAN'T LET
ANYONE DIE
HERE.

IT'S
BUTCHERY.



...WE
WEREN'T
STRONG
ENOUGH.

HE RISKED
HIS LIFE TO
WARN US.

IF WE DIE, IT
WON'T BE
BECAUSE...

THIS
ISN'T A
BATTLE.



TATARA!



ASAGI?







ASAGI!



TATA-
RA.

THAT'S
OIL,
NOT
WATER.



SHK

WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING?

GET
OUT OF
THERE,
YOU
IDIOT!

SPSH



KRSH



TATA-
RA!

FOOM



NACHI,
IT
WON'T
WORK!

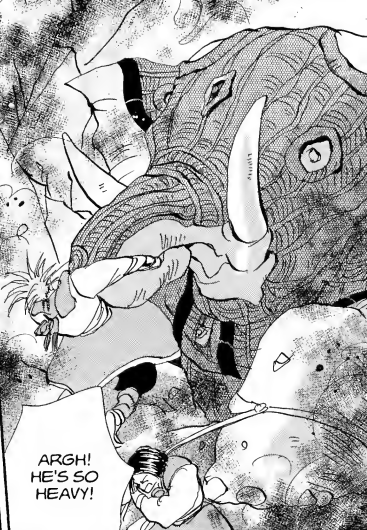
YOU
CAN'T
DRAG
HIM!



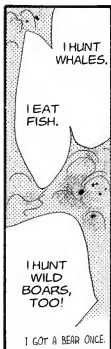
BUT...

...HE'LL
DIE IF
WE
LEAVE
HIM!

GARR!



ARGH!
HE'S SO
HEAVY!

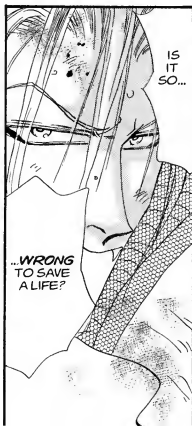


I HUNT
WHALES.

I EAT
FISH.

I HUNT
WILD
BOARS,
TOO!

I GOT A BEAR ONCE.



IS IT
SO...

...WRONG
TO SAVE
A LIFE?



YOU'D
KILL
SOLDIERS...

SUCH
HYPOCRITES.

...BUT
SAVE
RANDOM
ANIMALS
?



WHY
AREN'T
YOU
HELPING?

YOU
BROUGHT
HIM HERE!

HE'S
NOT
EVEN
FROM
THIS
COUNTRY!



...TO
DESTROY
NATURE'S
TREASURES!

YEAH!

I
DON'T
FIGHT...



BUT
BIRDS,
BEASTS
...

MOUNTAINS
AND
FORESTS...

FOOD AND
NON-FOOD!



US,
TOO.

...I LOVE
THEM
ALL!



...YOU'D
BETTER
LEND A
HAND!

IF YOU
DON'T
WANT
TO DIE...



YOU
HEARD
THE
IDIOT.

HELP
HIM
OUT.



ASAGI!









YOU
TAKE
NOTES
...

...ON
ME?



YOU
HAVE
TO...

BUT
THANKS.
I'M
SORRY.

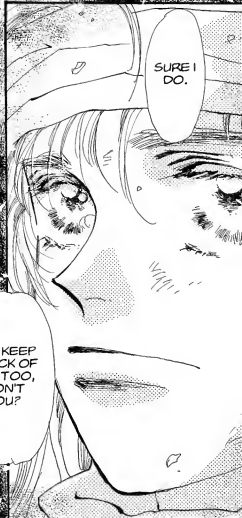
...TAKE
BETTER
CARE...

OH!



DRUGS
EITHER
WORK
TOO
MUCH
OR TOO
LITTLE.

THEN
YOU
ALWAYS
GET A
FEVER.
AND YOU'RE A
PICKY EATER.



SURE I
DO.

YOU KEEP
TRACK OF
ME, TOO,
DON'T
YOU?

FOOSH

FSH



LIKE A
FLURRY
OF
CHERRY
BLOSSOM
PETALS...

...IN
KYOTO.

THE
NEWS-
PAPER
TURNED
TO ASH...

KOFF

IT'S
LIKE
SNOW.

AGE-
HA.

AGEHA
MUST'VE
PRINTED
THIS...

I
BET HE'S
CRYING
RIGHT
NOW.

KYOTO...

...IN
TARO'S
STEAD.

OH,
TA-
RO...

...BE
SO
SAD.

HE
MUST
...



NO.

BUT
IT'S
OKAY.

YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE
HERE, AND
YOU KNOW
AGEHA,
TOO.



I
THOUGHT
YOU
WEREN'T...

...GOING
TO CRY
ANY-
MORE.



TATARA.

KOFF

KOFF



STAY
AWAY,
MURA-
TAKE!

KOFF

LORD
ASAGI.



I DON'T
NEED
YOUR
HELP.

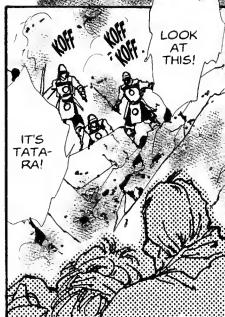


KRAK

TAK

WHOA!

BOARRRR







Final Tale: Coral • The Relics



HE DIED
BEFORE
HIS TIME,
BEFORE HE
COULD
TRULY USE
HIS
TALENTS.

TARO IS
DEAD.



Tiny Tam-Tam Time ③

OH, WOW.



There's going to be a BASARA artbook!
I feel a little self-conscious, but please
take a look if you see it!

♡ ♡

TAMU

SARASA'S JOURNEY





SO
MANY
PEOPLE
...

...SO
DEAR
TO US...

...HAVE
DIED.



WHEN
WILL IT
END?

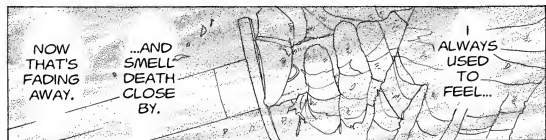
HOW
LONG
WILL IT
GO ON?



I DON'T
WANT
YOU TO
DIE.

KOHE
ASAGI.

BE
CARE-
FUL.





HOW
SHOULD
I
KNOW?



NOW
IS
THE
TIME.



"SERIOUS"?

HOW?



GET
SERIOUS
ABOUT
PROTEC-
TING HIM.





I CAN
TRUST
HIM...

...WITH
MY
BACK!

ASAGI.

...WHAT DO
YOU WANT
TO DO
WITH YOUR
LIFE?

WHEN WE
REBUILD
JAPAN...

...THAT FAR
INTO THE
FUTURE.

IVE NEVER
THOUGHT...

RAAH

THEN
LET'S
PLAN TO-
GETHER!

I WAS
TOLD...

...I
WOULDN'T
LIVE PAST
20.

YOU'LL
COME
WITH ME,
WON'T
YOU?

RAA



HIIRAGI...

SO
HOT...

...SO
MUCH
POWER?

BURN-
ING...

LIKE
FIRE!

HOW
FAR
CAN
WE
GO?

FOR
HOW
LONG?

THEN
WHY
DO I
FEEL...

WITH
YOU?



I CAN
FEEL
IT.

HIIRAGI!!



...I COULD
DEFEAT
EVEN YOU.

IF WE
CROSSED
SWORDS
AT THIS
MOMENT
...





WE ALL
HELPED
MR.
ELEPHANT
GET
UNSTUCK!

IT'S A
TEMPOR-
ARY
CEASE-
FIRE.

WE TALKED
TO 'EM,
AND
THEY'RE
GOOD
FOLKS.

IT'S TATARA!

HEH.

WE'RE
FRIENDS
NOW.

I TOLD
NACHI!

WHAT
THE...

WHERE'D
YOU GET
MR. ELE-
PHANT?



ASAGI.

LET
ME
SEE.

YOU
MUSTVE
BEEN IN A
LOT OF
PAIN.

I'M TIRED!



LET'S
SEE!

DONT
GET
ANOTHER
FEVER!

BONK

OW!



WELL
DONE,
ASAGI.

WOW.

WE
SAW
IT ALL.

IT'S THE
ADRENALINE.



NO.

I
DIDN'T
FEEL
IT AT
ALL.



FOOL..



I CAN'T
TAKE IT
ANY-
MORE.

IT'S
TOO
COMFORT-
ABLE
HERE.



WE CAN'T
SIDE WITH
EITHER.

OVER
HERE!

HELP!

WE SET
UP A
TRIAGE!

WE HAVE TO
TEND TO
OUR
WOUNDED
AND
REGROUP.



WHAT
DO WE
DO?

THE
RED
KING'S
TROOPS...

...AND
COUNCILOR
HAGIWARA'S
TROOPS ARE
FIGHTING.



KIKU?

OH,
NO!

HEY!

TATARA!

COME
HERE!

YADDOO!

YADDOO!



IN THE
RUBBLE.

SHE
FOUND
HAGI-
WARA'S
TRAP.

I FOUND
HER OUT
THERE.

HISHA?

HOW
WAS
SHE
HURT?

WHERE WAS SHE?



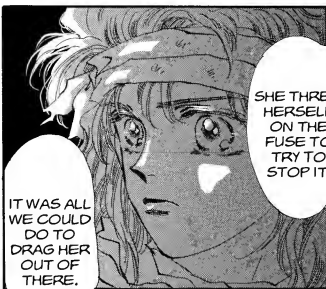
YEAH,
I'M AN
IDIOT.

KIKU!



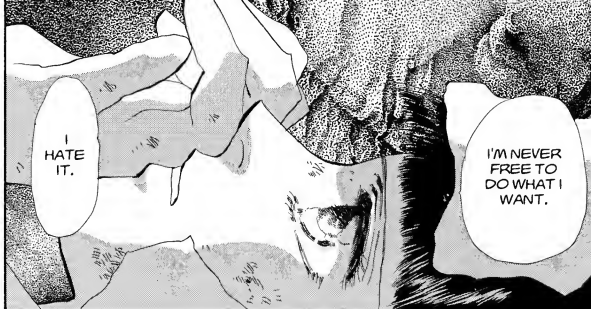
WHY...

WERE
YOU
SO
RECK-
LESS?



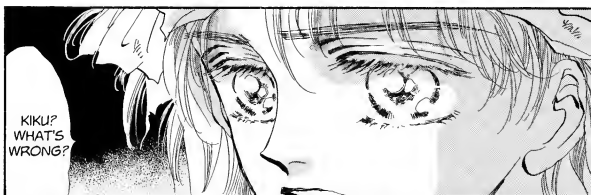
SHE THREW
HERSELF
ON THE
FUSE TO
TRY TO
STOP IT.

IT WAS ALL
WE COULD
DO TO
DRAG HER
OUT OF
THERE.



I
HATE
IT.

I'M NEVER
FREE TO
DO WHAT I
WANT.



KIKU?
WHAT'S
WRONG?



I
HATE
IT.



SHE
WASN'T
HURT
BADLY.

CARRY
HER OUT.

SHE'LL
BE
FINE.
SHE'S AGILE.

KIKU...



...AND TO
STAY
ALIVE.

WE FIGHT
FOR
HAPPINESS...

...HAS
AN
INNER
BATTLE.

EACH
OF US...

WE
FIGHT
TO
PURSUE
OUR
DREAMS.

HAGIWARA
OR THE
RED KING.

WE'LL HAVE
TO FIGHT
WHOEVER'S
LEFT
STANDING...

GET CHANGED?

YUP!

LET
EVERYONE
REST AND
EAT WHILE
THEY CAN.

SHF
CHA-
CHA.

Shinbashi, meanwhile...



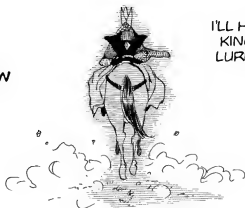
...distributed the newspaper with Daddy and his brothers.

TAN~





...INTO KYOTO,
WHERE I'LL **BURN**
THEM ALIVE.



I'LL HAVE TO USE
KING UKON TO
LURE TATARA'S
ARMY...



I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU,
HIIRAGI!

HIIRAGI
WILL
DISPOSE
OF HIM.

I WON'T
HAVE TO
WORRY
ABOUT THE
RED
PRINCE.



THE
APE
OF
KYO-
TO.



APE?



ARGH!
BY HIM-
SELF!

SHU-
RI!

HAGI-
WARA'S
GETTING
AWAY!

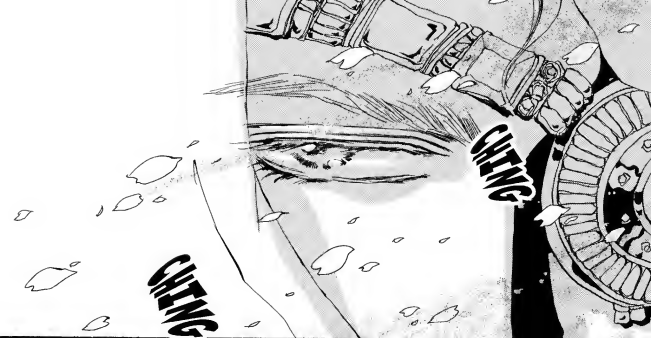
ON TOP OF THE
ELEPHANTS.



MAY HE
BE
EATEN BY
THE APE.

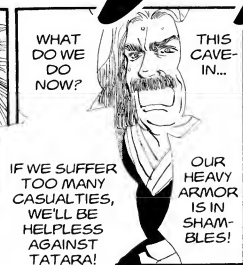
HE'S
SMALL
FRY.







SHU-RI?



WHAT DO WE DO NOW?

THIS CAVE-IN...

IF WE SUFFER TOO MANY CASUALTIES, WE'LL BE HELPLESS AGAINST TATARA!

OUR HEAVY ARMOR IS IN SHAMBLES!



THE FOOTING IS POOR, YOUR HIGHNESS!

AND THE FIRE IS SPREADING...



WE OUT-NUMBER THEM, BUT THE TIDE IS AGAINST US!



THEY'VE TAKEN OUR BACKS!



SHURI?



HEH
HEH!

HA
HA
HA!



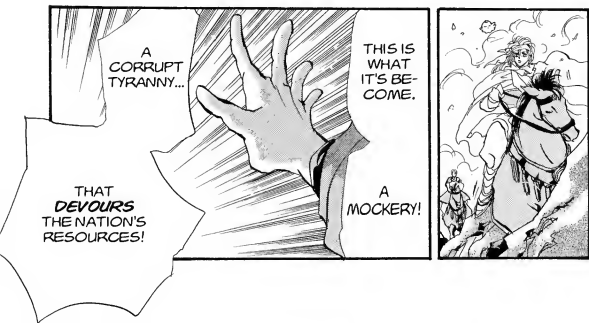
HEH.



YOUR
HIGHNESS!

HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA!

HA
HA
HA
HA!





MEN...

WHO FAIL
TO SEE
REALITY.

MEN TOO
EN-
TWINED
IN THE
OLD
WAYS...

TO RECOG-
NIZE THAT
TIMES ARE
CHANGING.



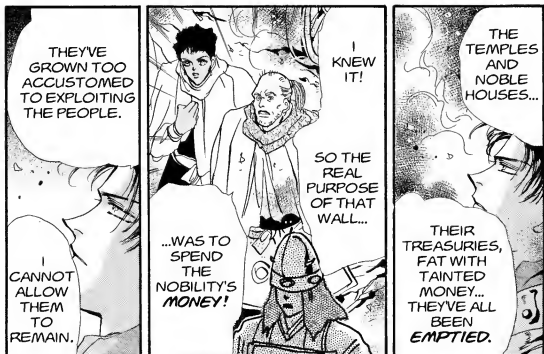
...AND
BROUGHT
THEM ALL
WITH ME TO
THIS
BATTLE.

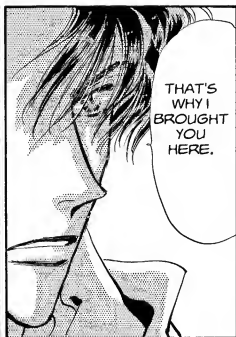
IVE COLLECTED
THE OBSOLETE
RELICS THAT
HAVE NO PLACE
IN OUR FUTURE...



THE
BANE...

...OF THE
PEOPLE.







NOT
ONCE IN
MY LIFE...

THE
ROYAL
FAMILY?
HA!

...HAVE I EVER
CONSIDERED
ITS BEST
INTERESTS.



THAT'S
MY PUR-
POSE.

I MUST
BRING
THE
ROYAL
FAMILY...

TO A
GRAND
FINALE.



SORRY.

TFF



AH!



IS
THAT
ALL?



I
WANT
HER...

TO LIVE
SOME-
WHERE
FAR
REMOVED
...

...FROM THE
MADDING
WORLD.
SOME-
WHERE
PEACEFUL
AND QUIET.



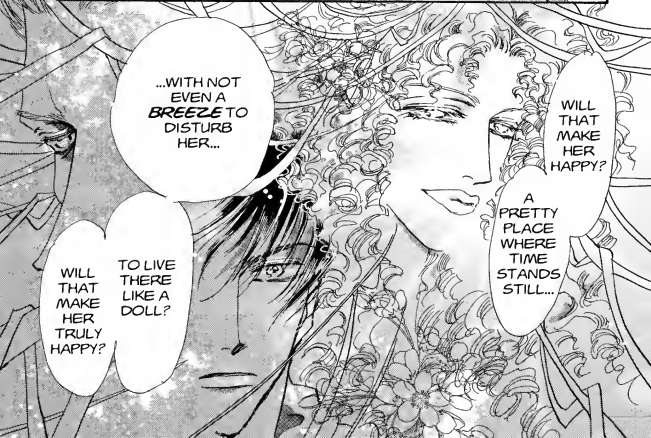
SO...

WHAT IS
YOUR
PLAN
FOR THE
WHITE
LADY?



...YOU DON'T
UNDERSTAND
HER *ONE BIT*.

IN THAT
CASE...



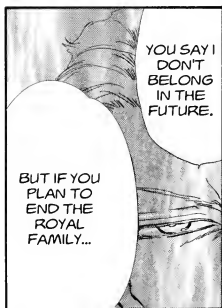
...WITH NOT
EVEN A
BREEZE TO
DISTURB
HER...

WILL
THAT
MAKE
HER
HAPPY?

A
PRETTY
PLACE
WHERE
TIME
STANDS
STILL...

WILL
THAT
MAKE
HER
TRULY
HAPPY?

TO LIVE
THERE
LIKE A
DOLL?





I SEE.

YOU
MUST
LOVE
HER
VERY
MUCH.



I AM
NOT
WORTHY.



TMP



STAY OUT
OF THIS,
NAKIJIN!

SHURI!



YOU'RE
ONE OF
THOSE
MOST
NEEDED
IN THE
FUTURE.

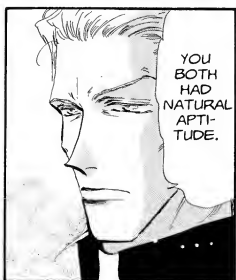
YOU
MUST
LIVE.



YOU
REALLY
THINK YOU
CAN BEAT
HIM?

DON'T
DO
IT!







...IN THE
NEW
WORLD.

YOU
CANNOT
EXIST...



THIS IS FOR
TATARA







A NEW
COUNTRY,
UNITED IN
PEACE.



VERDANT
FIELDS.



IT HAS
ALWAYS
BEEN MY
VISION.



FINAL TALE: ASH • WHITE FLAMES





HIIRAGI-
SENSEI.



NOT
YOU.

I CANNOT LET
YOU SURVIVE
THIS WAR.



I
MUST
KILL
YOU...

FOR THE
NEW
ERA...

...FOR THE
COUNTRY'S
DAWN...

...FOR
TATARA'S
SAKE!

...I CANNOT
ALLOW AN
ASSASSIN LIKE
YOU TO
REMAIN.



FOR...

...MY
SAKE?

Tiny Tam-Tam Time ④

BETSU-COMI, the
magazine that
publishes BASARA,
has a homepage!
Did you know?



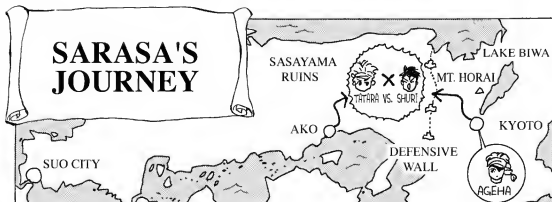
If you have a computer, take a
look! ☺ I post messages there
sometimes.

Here's the address.

TFFC

<http://www.betsucomi.shogakukan.co.jp>

SARASA'S JOURNEY





BUT THERE'S NO
ROOM FOR
PARRIES AND
RIPOSTES WITH
HIIRAGI.



SHURI
ALWAYS
...

...PLAYS
TO
WIN.



THIS IS
CERTAIN
DEATH!

HE'S...

CERTAIN
DEATH?



IF HE
GETS A
CHANCE
AT ALL...

...IT'LL BE
ONLY FOR A
SPLIT
SECOND.



...IT WOULD
HAVE TO BE
SOMEONE
HE TRUSTS
COMPLETE-
LY.

IF ANYONE
COULD
HELP HIM
HERE ...



SHURI
WOULD
LOSE
FOCUS.

I CAN'T
FOLLOW
THESE
THINGS.

WOULD
ARROWS
HELP?

NO.



DON'T
DIE!

DON'T DIE,
SHURI. NOT
HERE.

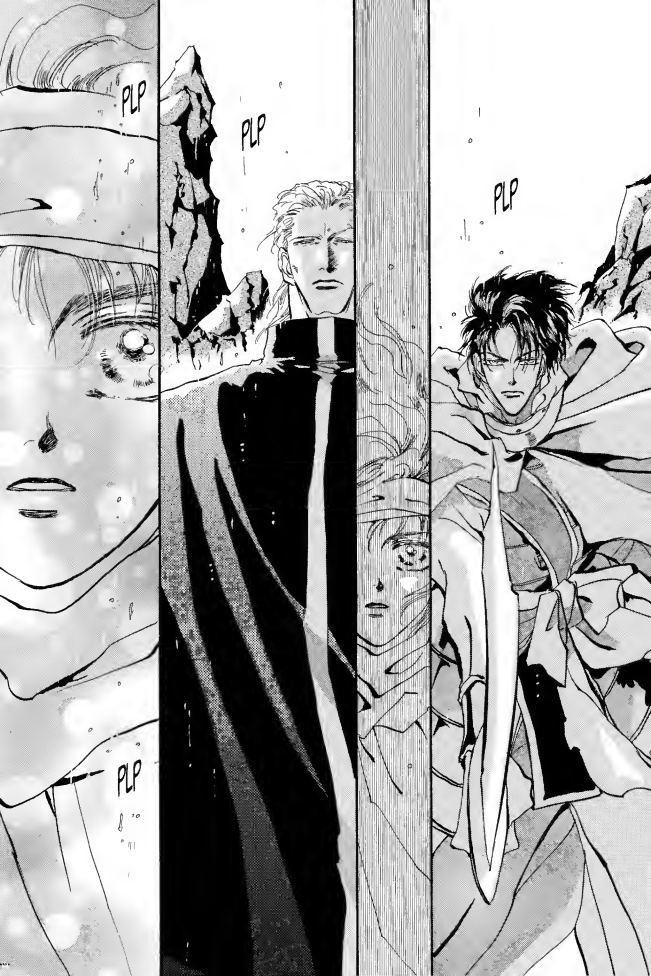


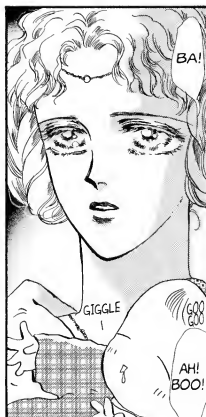
I DON'T
WANT
TO BE
KEPT
SAFE!

DON'T
YOU
NEED
MY
HELP?

YOU
DON'T
GET
IT!







WHAT IS IT, MOTO-MICHI? HM?





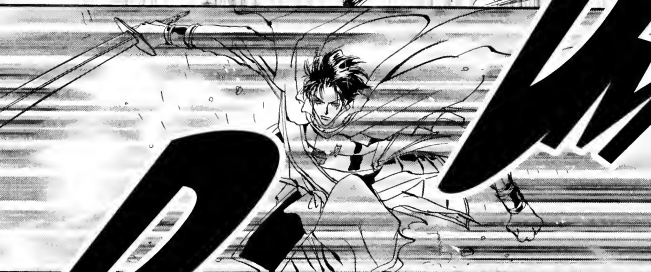
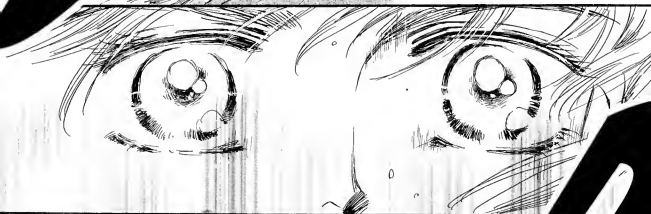
SSH

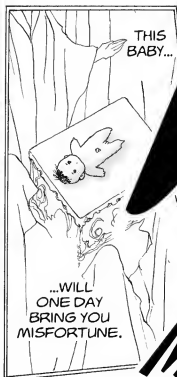
SSH



LORD SHIDO?







THIS
BABY...

...WILL
ONE DAY
BRING YOU
MISFORTUNE.



THIS IS MY
SLAVE!

THIS IS
NOT MY
SON.



MY
SLAVE!

THE
RED
PRINCE!



YOU WILL
GROW
FASTER AND
MORE
GRACEFUL
WITH
PRACTICE.



IN LEARNING A
MOVEMENT, IT
IS KEY TO
PERFORM
ACCURATELY
AND BOLDLY.

THIS
ISN'T A
FISTFIGHT.

WE
COULD
SUR-
PRISE
HIM...

...AND
TRY A
Pincer
ATTACK.



I JUST
WANNA
TAKE A
SWING
AT HIM.



WE'RE
FAR
FROM
READY.

HOW
COULD
WE BEAT
SENSEI?

SHI-
DO.

HMM.



TAAH



YAH



Shinbashi,
afterwards...

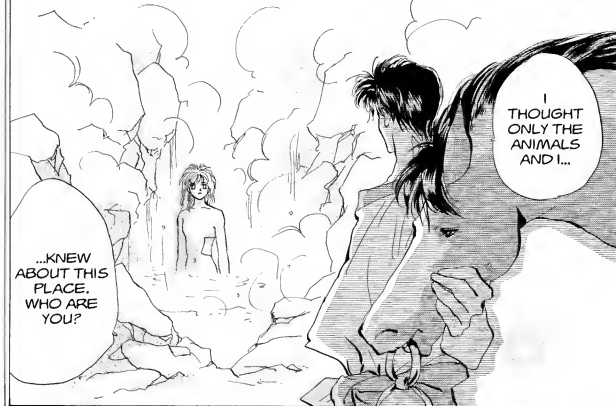
I worked hard. Are you
proud of me, Tataru?



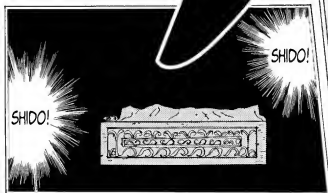
Sigh...she doesn't have time
for me right now...

TAMU









SHIDO!

SHIDO!



AND
THEN
AN
AR-
ROW...

JUST
AS LORD
SHIDO
WAS
ABOUT TO
FINISH
HIM...

HE
HESITATED
FOR SOME
REASON.



WHY?

WHY?

WHAT
DID YOU
WANT
TO TELL
ME?

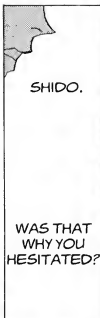
SHI-
DO!



RY



YOU
MADE IT
YOUR
BUSINESS
TO KNOW
EVERY-
THING.



SHIDO.

WAS THAT
WHY YOU
HESITATED?



SARASA...



SARA-
SA...

...IS
TATARA?



YOU KNEW
ABOUT US. YOU
STAYED YOUR
HAND...

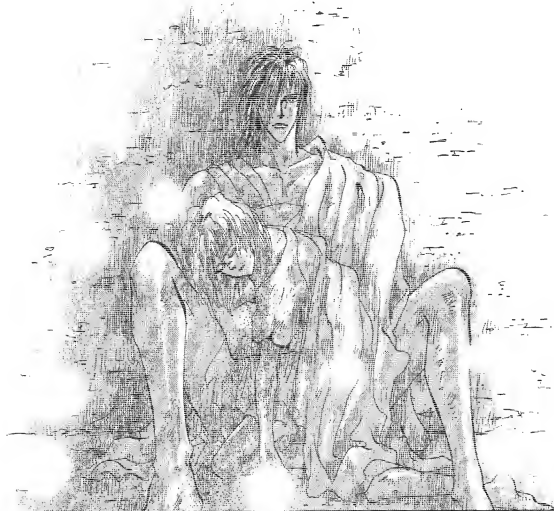
RY



I'M THE
CAUSE
OF YOUR
DEATH.

...FOR
ME!





THE
COUNTRY
DOESN'T
EXIST
FOR ME.

BUT
WE WERE
WRONG ON
ONE POINT,
SHIDO.

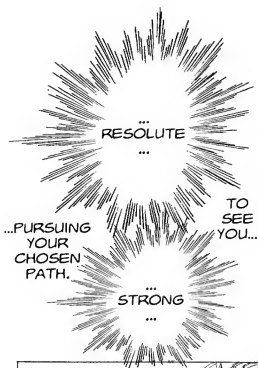
THAT'S
WHERE WE
WERE
WRONG.

A
COUNTRY
GREEN...

...AND
FULL
OF
LIFE.



WE USED TO
TALK ABOUT
THE CITY
WE'D BUILD.



...PURSUING
YOUR
CHOSEN
PATH.

TO
SEE
YOU...



WHAT I
WANT...

...IS YOUR
HAPPINESS,
SHURI.



I
CAN'T
BE
THE
KING...

...YOU
WANTED
ME TO
BE.



NEVER STOP, EVEN
IF YOU HAVE TO
CRAWL ON YOUR
HANDS AND
KNEES.

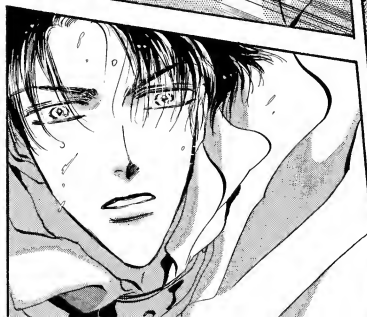
I'M
ALWAYS
WATCHING
OVER YOU.



...TO
YOUR
DESTINY.

I WILL
BEAR
WITNESS...







60.

















BLOODY





WAAAAAH

PLUP PLUP PLUP

...WE'RE
FINALLY
EVEN.

YOUR
HIGH-
NESS!

SHURI!

SHUR!

IT WON'T
CHANGE
WHO I AM.

NO
MATTER
WHAT I
LOSE...

WHAT'S
AN
ARM...

OR
TWO?

CHOOSE
WHAT
SUR-
VIVES...
I'M BEST
EQUIPPED
TO
DECIDE...

...THAT
THINGS
ARE
SET
RIGHT.

I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN DO THIS.

I MUST
MAKE
SURE...



NGH!

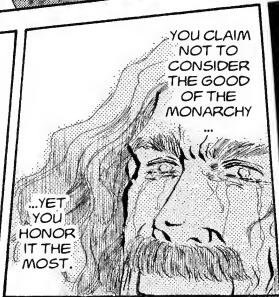
UNH!

YOU
KNOW
WHY?

BECAUSE
I AM
THE
LAST
KING!



YOU ARE
THE MOST
WORTHY OF
RULERS...



YOU CLAIM
NOT TO
CONSIDER
THE GOOD
OF THE
MONARCHY
...

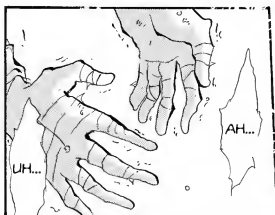
...YET
YOU
HONOR
IT THE
MOST.



AH...



UH...



UH...

AH...



I
DON'T
WANT
THIS...

NO...

NO.

YOU
ARE
THE
KING
OF
KINGS!





A
A
A!

THE
BLOOD...

...STAINED
HIS
CLOAK
RED.

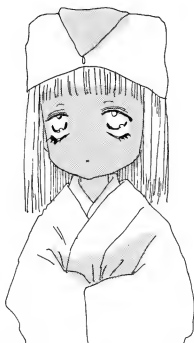
THE
RED
KING.

BASARA 22: END.



EXTRA: HOW THE SEED WAS PLANTED

I THINK I
FIRST
HEARD
THE
TERM...



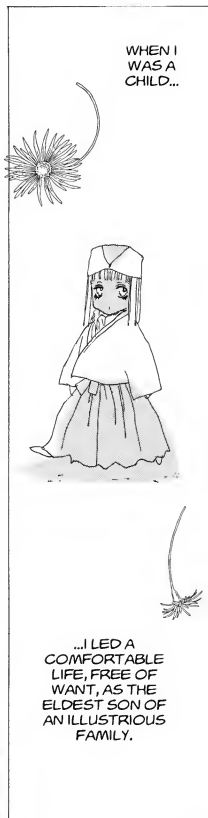
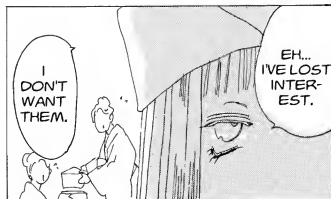
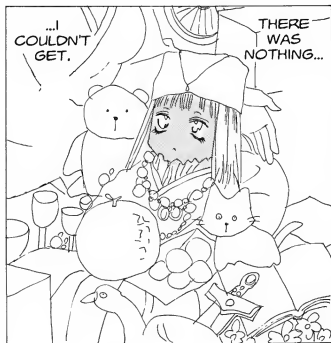
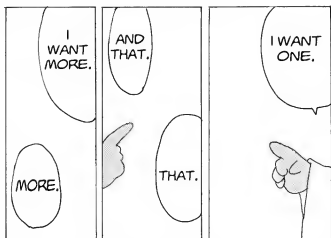
"KOO
DATA"?

IT MEANS A
TAKEOVER
THAT
REPLACES A
TOP POWER
FIGURE.

A "COUP
D'ÉTAT."

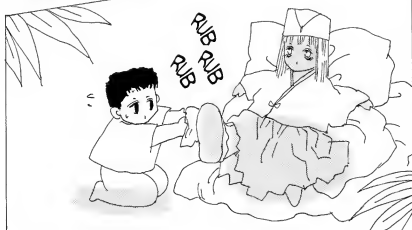


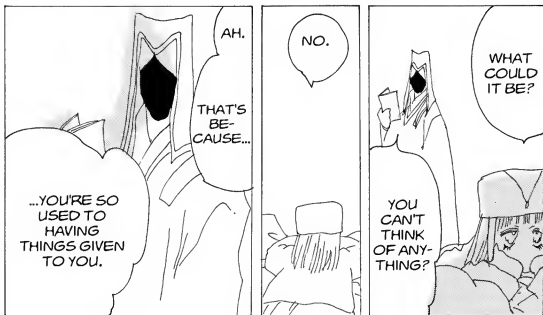
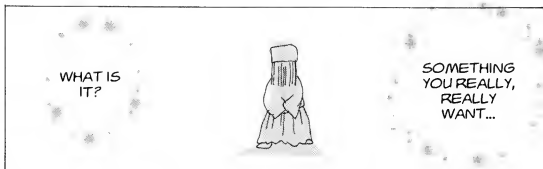
...FROM A
TUTOR I HAD
AS A CHILD.
NOW I DON'T
EVEN
REMEMBER
HIS FACE.

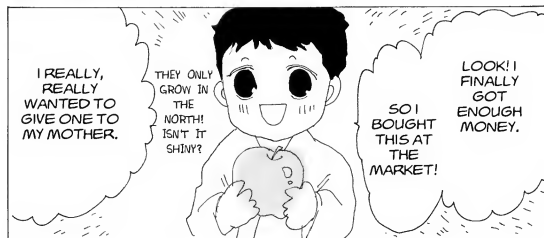
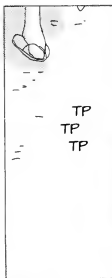


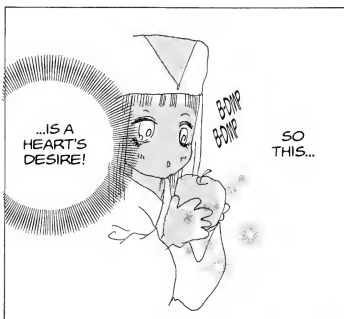
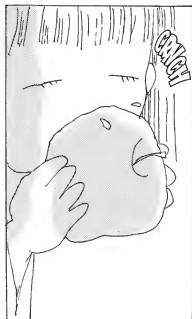
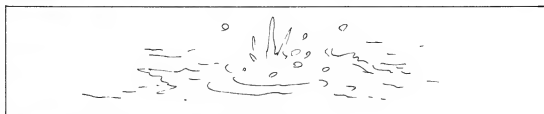
MY FATHER
WAS MORE
POWERFUL
THAN ANYONE.

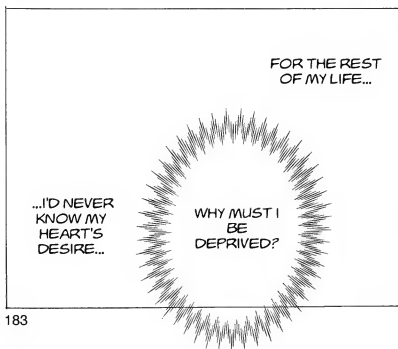
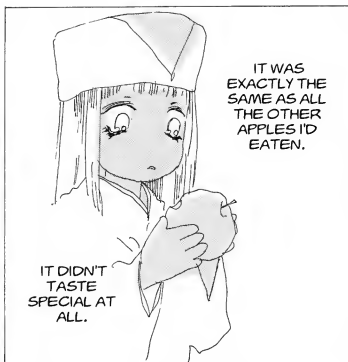
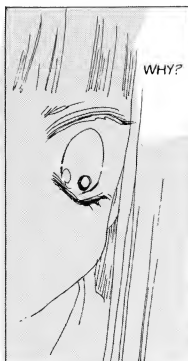
I THOUGHT
THERE WAS
NOTHING IN
THIS WORLD
HE
COULDN'T
GET.

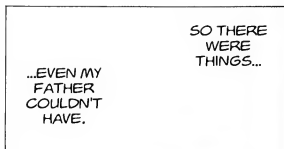
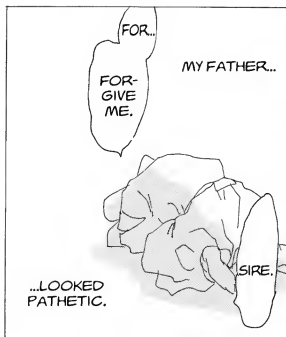
















TACHIBANA OF THE WEST

SCORPIO, BLOOD TYPE A
51 YEARS OLD

HE'S CURRENTLY BY THE RED PRINCE'S SIDE. HE HAS THREE SONS AND TWO DAUGHTERS, BUT HE DIDN'T LET THEM JOIN THE WAR. HE'S BEEN CALLED THE "LAST SHRED OF CONSCIENCE." HE'S RIGHTEOUS, HAS INTEGRITY AND IS EASILY MOVED TO TEARS. HE WORRIES ABOUT EVERYTHING. HE'S UNEXPECTEDLY POPULAR.



HE WORKS HARD AND LOVES TO PULL THE STRINGS. SO WHY DID HE FALL APART AT THE ENDGAME? MAYBE BECAUSE HE LIVED A SPOILED LIFE...



HAGIWARA OF THE SOUTH

LIBRA, BLOOD TYPE AB
33 YEARS OLD

SINGLE, NO KIDS. (TRYING TO GET WITH THE WHITE KING.) HE'S CURRENTLY THE LEADER NOW THAT MOMONOI IS DEAD.

MOMONOI OF THE NORTH

VIRGO, BLOOD TYPE O
AGE AT DEATH: 56 YEARS OLD

HE DIED WITH HIS ONLY SON, HOZUMI, SO HIS FAMILY IS HAVING A SUCCESSION CRISIS. HIS STATION IS CURRENTLY UNOCCUPIED.



HE WAS A STUBBORN OLD MAN AND THE LEADER OF THE FOUR...HE WAS SCARY WHEN HE GOT ANGRY.



HE DOES THINGS AT HIS OWN PACE AND ISN'T EASILY RUFFLED. HE HATES BATHING.

SAKURADA OF THE EAST

TAURUS, BLOOD TYPE B
43 YEARS OLD

SINGLE, NO KIDS. HE WAS BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK AND STILL FEELS CLOSER TO THE COMMONERS. HE OFTEN GOES TO THE TOWN PUB TO PLAY OTHELLO.

YOU MIGHT NOT CARE, BUT...

BONUS

PROFILES OF THE FOUR COUNCILORS

TAMU.

SINGLE-PAGE
GREETINGS

TAM-TAM TIME

TAMU.

Hello again!

Thanks for reading all the way
to the end!

There's a weird bonus
story in this volume.

I hope you like it.



BASARA is ending soon. You can check it out in
the magazine BETSU-COMI. I also write in
DELUXE COMICS sometimes, so look for me!

A certain scene in this volume
may have shocked you.

Please write and tell me what
you thought.

The BASARA Project is
going forward. They made a
CD, and we'll hear more
news on the anime soon.
They're talking about
producing a novel and a
video game, too. Oh, and
you can listen to "BASARA
Night" on the radio!



I'm writing this at the
end of the year. In fact,
today is Christmas Eve!

I need the holidays to
wind down. My motto for
next year (1998) is, "live
a decent life."

Take care
and good
luck,
everyone!

Don't catch a cold! The flu is scary.

I enjoy "ER" and "Millennium." I'm looking
forward to the video game *Chocobo's Dungeon*
and getting a PostPet (virtual pet and e-mail
software)!

Here's the address to send fan mail!

(Please write me with your opinions!
Check out the Bestu-Comi homepage, too!)

↳ See pg. 138!

Address: VIZ Media, LLC P.O. Box 77010 San Francisco, CA 94107

Tam-Tam Time: END.

